

Michael Spindler, former Apple CEO, our June Luncheon Speaker

"Nations or Networks? A view from above."

This theme encapsulates a variety of topics such as the Internet, competitiveness, and South East Asia



Michael Spindler

Michael Spindler was born in Berlin, Germany and holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Technical University in Cologne. He has worked his entire career in the computer and electronics field. His first assignment in 1966 was as a development engineer in the central laboratories at Siemens AG in Munich, Germany, working on a magnetic tape controller for mainframe computers. Wanting to get closer to a real customer he joined a subsidiary of electronics conglomerate Schlumberger in the UK involved in telemetry and radar systems as a customer support engineer.

Realizing the writing on the wall and the potential of minicomputers he joined Digital Equipment Corp in 1970 as salesman in their Munich office, moving on to marketing and product management. By 1977 he had European responsibility for the telecom industry.

That year he answered a call from Intel Corp and became European Marketing Manager based at their European HQ in Brussels.

In 1980 he joined Apple, Inc as European Manager based in Paris, France. In 1985 he took responsibility for Apple's International business based in Cupertino, CA. He became President & COO in 1990 and President & CEO three years later. He left Apple in 1996.

Following corporate life Michael Spindler set out in a variety of broader activities. He served on the Boards of German Carmaker Daimler-Benz and media conglomerate Bertelsmann AG as well as firms in the biomedical and medical device business. He became involved in venture capitalism and joined Upstart Capital LLC. He served as a Trustee in non profit organizations such as the American Film Institute in Los Angeles and Libraries for the Future in New York.

Michael Spindler is married and lives in San Francisco. His three children Karen, Laurie and John live in the Bay Area.

Editorial comments at Apple, Michael dealt with numerous government and International industry leaders, including the CEOs of other Fortune 50 companies, technical advisors to Presidents and Prime Ministers and heads of International Agencies. As Apple's CEO, Michael was a noted participant at numerous annual World Economic Forums (Davos, Switzerland). These experiences coupled with his International roots and talent for strategic thought gives Michael a unique view of world issues. He will share his views on these topics and will leave time to address questions from our members.